

The Cave of the Cyclops

Mesolithic and Neolithic Networks in the
Northern Aegean, Greece



Volume I

Intra-site Analysis, Local Industries, and
Regional Site Distribution

PREHISTORY MONOGRAPHS 21

The Cave of the Cyclops

Mesolithic and Neolithic Networks in the Northern Aegean, Greece

Volume I

Intra-site Analysis, Local Industries, and
Regional Site Distribution

by

Adamantios Sampson

contributions by

Malgorzata Kaczanowska, Stella Katsarou-Tzeveleki, Georgios B. Koutsouflakis,
Janusz K. Kozłowski, Fanis Mavridis, Laia Orphanidis, and Nickos A. Poulianos



Published by
INSTAP Academic Press
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2008

Design and Production

INSTAP Academic Press

Printing

CRWGraphics, Pennsauken, New Jersey

Binding

Hoster Bindery, Inc., Ivyland, Pennsylvania

Volume Editors

Adamantios Sampson and Stella Katsarou-Tzeveleki

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Sampson, Adamantios A.

The cave of the cyclops : Mesolithic and Neolithic networks in the northern Aegean, Greece / by Adamantios Sampson.

p. cm. — (Prehistory monographs ; 21)

v. 1. Intra-site analysis, local industries, and regional site distribution

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-931534-20-8 (alk. paper)

1. Cyclops, Cave of the (Greece). 2. Gióúra Island (Greece)—Antiquities. 3. Mesolithic period—Greece—Cyclops, Cave of the. 4. Neolithic period—Greece—Cyclops, Cave of the. 5. Antiquities, Prehistoric—Greece—Cyclops, Cave of the. 6. Excavations (Archaeology)—Greece—Gióúra Island. I. Title. II. Title: Mesolithic and Neolithic networks in the northern Aegean, Greece.

GN816.C93 S26 2008

939'.11—dc22

2008042048

Copyright © 2008

INSTAP Academic Press

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America



Table of Contents

List of Tables.....	vii
List of Figures.....	ix
List of Plates.....	xv
Preface.....	xix
Abbreviations.....	xxi
1. Cave Setting and Stratigraphy, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	1
2. Pottery Analysis of the Neolithic Period, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	17
Early Neolithic–Middle Neolithic Pottery.....	18
Late Neolithic Ia Pottery.....	31
Late Neolithic Ib Pottery.....	32
Late Neolithic II Pottery.....	65
Statistical Analysis of Early to Late Neolithic Coarse and Monochrome Wares.....	66
Pottery Technology and Petrographic Analysis.....	67
3. Middle Neolithic Weavers Paint: Red Painted Patterns as Markers of the Local Group’s Identity, <i>Stella Katsarou-Tzeveleki</i>	69

4. Late Neolithic Painted and Burnished Decorated Wares, <i>Fanis Mavridis</i>	111
5. Pottery Analysis of the Bronze Age and Historical Periods, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	123
6. Lamps of the Roman Period, <i>Georgios B. Koutsouflakis</i>	127
7. Ground Stone Tools, Stone Objects, and Miscellaneous Small Finds, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	161
A Neolithic Figurine from the Cave of the Cyclops, <i>Laia Orphanidis</i>	165
8. Chipped Stone Artifacts, <i>Malgorzata Kaczanowska and Janusz K. Koz³owski</i>	169
9. Survey in the Deserted Islands of the Northern Sporades, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	179
10. History of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture on Youra and the Neighboring Islands of the Northern Sporades, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	187
11. A Mesolithic Cranial Vault and Other Human Remains, <i>Nickos A. Poulianos</i>	195
12. Conclusions, <i>Adamantios Sampson</i>	199
Bibliography	227
Index	251
Tables	
Figures	
Plates	



List of Tables

- Table 1.1. Stratigraphic sequence and context of Trench CWest–CEast.
- Table 1.2. Correspondence of layers between Trenches B and CWest.
- Table 2.1. Distribution of coarse and monochrome ware shapes of the Early/Middle Neolithic.
- Table 2.2. Distribution of coarse and monochrome ware shapes of the Early/Middle Neolithic according to rim diameter.
- Table 2.3. Distribution of Late Neolithic coarse ware in levels of Trench CEast.
- Table 2.4. Distribution of Late Neolithic monochrome ware in levels of Trench CEast.
- Table 2.5. Distribution of Late Neolithic coarse and monochrome pottery according to rim diameter.
- Table 2.6. Distribution of colors of coarse ware in levels of Trench A.
- Table 2.7. Distribution of colors of monochrome ware in levels of Trench A.
- Table 2.8. Distribution of coarse and monochrome ware handles and lugs in levels of Trench A.
- Table 2.9. Distribution of coarse and monochrome ware bases and rims in levels of Trench A.
- Table 3.1. Amounts of Middle Neolithic painted pottery per trench in comparison with other pottery groups.
- Table 3.2. Approximate number of Middle Neolithic painted vases per trench.

- Table 3.3. Parts of the Middle Neolithic painted ware vessels per trench.
- Table 4.1. Distribution of decorative types of pottery according to trench and level.
- Table 4.2. Percentages of vessel body parts and shapes.
- Table 4.3. Distribution of decorative types according to rim diameter of vases.
- Table 8.1. Major technological groups in the Mesolithic levels.
- Table 8.2. Siliceous stone raw materials in the Mesolithic levels.
- Table 8.3. Tools in the Mesolithic, Early/Middle Neolithic, and Late Neolithic levels.
- Table 8.4. Siliceous stone artifacts of the Mesolithic period.
- Table 8.5. Obsidian artifacts of the Mesolithic period.
- Table 8.6. Major technological groups in the Early/Middle Neolithic levels.
- Table 8.7. Siliceous stone artifacts of the Early/Middle Neolithic period.
- Table 8.8. Obsidian artifacts of the Early/Middle Neolithic period.
- Table 8.9. Major technological groups in the Late Neolithic levels.
- Table 8.10. Siliceous stone raw materials in the Late Neolithic levels.
- Table 8.11. Siliceous stone artifacts of the Late Neolithic period.
- Table 8.12. Obsidian artifacts of the Late Neolithic period.
- Table 11.1. Comparative measurements of the cranial vault from the Cave of the Cyclops with other female Mediterranean European skulls.
- Table 11.2. Fragments of bone from the Mesolithic and Neolithic levels in the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Table 12.1. Comparative chronology of Epipaleolithic and Mesolithic cultures in Greece, Anatolia, and the Near East.
- Table 12.2. Summary of radiocarbon dates of samples from the Cave of the Cyclops.



List of Figures

- Figure 1.1. Map of the Aegean.
- Figure 1.2. Map of the Northern Sporades.
- Figure 1.3. Alonnessos and the Deserted Islands group.
- Figure 1.4A. Ground plan of the Cave of the Cyclops showing the trenches.
- Figure 1.4B. Trenches B, C, and E close to the cave entrance.
- Figure 1.5A. Ground plan of Trench A and its extension (Trench D).
- Figure 1.5B. Trench A. Level 2 in Rectangles 1–4.
- Figure 1.6A. Trench A. Ground plan and section.
- Figure 1.6B. Ground plan of Trench B.
- Figure 1.7A. Trench B. Stratigraphical section of the East Balk.
- Figure 1.7B. Trenches B and C.
- Figure 1.8A. The Western and Eastern divisions of Trench C.
- Figure 1.8B. Trench CWest. Floor of Level 7.
- Figure 1.9A. Trench CWest. Stratigraphical section of the West Balk.
- Figure 1.9B. Trench CWest. Mesolithic floor, hearths, and pit of Level 8.

- Figure 1.10A. Trench CWest. Mesolithic floors and hearth of Level 9.
- Figure 1.10B. Trench CWest. Mesolithic floor of Level 10.
- Figure 1.11A. Trench CWest. Ground plan of Level 11, Rectangles 1–4.
- Figure 1.11B. Trench CWest. Mesolithic floors of Level 12.
- Figure 1.12A. Trench CWest. Level 14, Rectangles 1–4.
- Figure 1.12B. Trench CEast. Level 9, Rectangles 1–3, 5–7.
- Figure 1.13A. Trench CEast. Floors in Level 11.
- Figure 1.13B. Trench CEast. Floors and hearths in Level 12.
- Figure 1.14A. Trench CEast. Level 15.
- Figure 1.14B. Trench CEast. Floors, hearths, and pits in Levels 16–17.
- Figure 1.15A. Trench CEast. Levels 18–19.
- Figure 1.15B. Trench CEast. Levels 21–22.
- Figure 1.16A. Trench C. Sections A–A' and B–B'.
- Figure 1.16B. Hearth and floor in Trench E.
- Figure 1.17A. Ground plan of Trench F.
- Figure 1.17B. Trench C. Stratigraphical section of the South Balk. Layers 1–12.
- Figure 1.18A. Trench C. Floors in the Western and Eastern divisions of the South Balk that correspond to excavation levels.
- Figure 1.18B. Trench C. Succession of layers of the South Balk that correspond to excavation levels.
- Figure 2.1. Early/Middle Neolithic coarse ware open (I.1–I.12) and closed (I.13–I.15) vessel shapes.
- Figure 2.2. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware open (II.1–II.11) and closed (II.13–II.17) vessel shapes.
- Figure 2.3. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware closed vessel shapes (II.18–II.24). Late Neolithic Ib open vessel shapes (III.1–III.8).
- Figure 2.4. Late Neolithic Ib open vessel shapes.
- Figure 2.5. Late Neolithic Ib open (III.29–III.31) and closed (III.33–III.48) vessel shapes.
- Figure 2.6. Late Neolithic Ib closed vessel shapes (III.49–III.53). Late Neolithic II open (IV.1, IV.2, IV.4) and closed (IV.3) vessel shapes.
- Figure 2.7. Early/Middle Neolithic coarse ware open (**1, 2, 4–11, 13–15, 17, 18**) and closed (**21, 22, 23.1**) vessels.
- Figure 2.8. Early/Middle Neolithic coarse ware handle (**24**) and lug (**26**); sherds with relief (**30, 31**), impressed (**32, 33/36, 37, 38, 40**), pointille (**41**), and incised (**42**) decoration.
- Figure 2.9. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware open vessels.
- Figure 2.10. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware open vessels.
- Figure 2.11. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware closed vessels.

- Figure 2.12. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware closed vessels.
- Figure 2.13. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware closed vessels (**119–121, 123, 129**); handles (**131–133**) and lugs (**134, 135, 138**).
- Figure 2.14. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware lugs.
- Figure 2.15. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware lugs (**156–161**) and bases (**162–164, 167–169, 172–176**).
- Figure 2.16. Early/Middle Neolithic monochrome ware bases (**177–180.1**); sherds with holes (**181–183**); sherd with relief decoration (**184**). Middle Neolithic White-on-Red painted ware (**188–193**).
- Figure 2.17. Middle Neolithic White-on-Red painted ware (**194**). Late Neolithic Ib open vessels (**197, 198, 201–208, 211.1–211.4, 212, 215**).
- Figure 2.18. Late Neolithic Ib open vessels.
- Figure 2.19. Late Neolithic Ib open vessels.
- Figure 2.20. Late Neolithic Ib open vessels.
- Figure 2.21. Late Neolithic Ib open vessels.
- Figure 2.22. Late Neolithic Ib open vessels (**283, 287, 289, 291, 303**). Late Neolithic ladles (**292, 298, 299, 301, 302**).
- Figure 2.23. Late Neolithic Ib open (**304, 306, 308, 309, 311, 314, 315**) and closed vessels (**319, 323, 324, 326, 327, 329–331, 335, 338–343**).
- Figure 2.24. Late Neolithic Ib closed vessels.
- Figure 2.25. Late Neolithic Ib closed vessels (**372, 378–381, 383, 384.1, 385**) and handles (**386–390**).
- Figure 2.26. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.27. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.28. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.29. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.30. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.31. Late Neolithic Ib handles.
- Figure 2.32. Late Neolithic Ib lugs.
- Figure 2.33. Late Neolithic Ib lugs.
- Figure 2.34. Late Neolithic Ib lugs.
- Figure 2.35. Late Neolithic Ib bases.
- Figure 2.36. Late Neolithic Ib bases.
- Figure 2.37. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with holes (**633–640**) and relief rope-motif decoration (**641, 641.1**).
- Figure 2.38. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with relief rope-motif decoration (**642–648**) and incised plastic decoration (**649**).

- Figure 2.39. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with incised plastic decoration.
- Figure 2.40. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with incised plastic decoration (**664–671**) and plain plastic decoration (**673–679**).
- Figure 2.41. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with plain plastic decoration.
- Figure 2.42. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with plain plastic decoration (**697–698.1**) and incised decoration (**699–714**).
- Figure 2.43. Late Neolithic Ib sherds with incised (**716**), grooved (**717–721.1**), and pointille decoration (**722**). Late Neolithic IIA elephant-head lug (**727**) with incisions.
- Figure 3.1. Middle Neolithic population in the Cave of the Cyclops as inferred from the excavation of trenches and possible spread of habitation.
- Figure 3.2. Red-on-White ware shape repertory.
- Figure 3.3A. Red-on-White ware lug types. 1: **731**; 2: **749**; 3: **750**; 4: **751**.
- Figure 3.3B. Red-on-White vases separated into decoration bands.
- Figure 3.3C. Positions of canvas motifs on Youra vases.
- Figure 3.4A. Structure of canvas types.
- Figure 3.4B. Types of checkers.
- Figure 3.4C. Body fragments with canvas.
- Figure 3.5. Types of other body motifs.
- Figure 3.6. Collection of maze, meander, spiral, and concentric patterns from Youra.
- Figure 4.1. White-on-Dark ware.
- Figure 4.2. Pattern burnished ware.
- Figure 4.3. Matt-painted ware.
- Figure 4.4. Matt-painted ware.
- Figure 5.1. Early Helladic (**808–811**) and Middle Helladic (**812–814**) pottery.
- Figure 5.2. Mycenaean (**815–819**), Geometric (**820–823**), and 5th century B.C. (**824, 827**) pottery.
- Figure 6.1. Roman lamps: Group I (**RL1, RL3**) and Group II (**RL5–RL7, RL12–RL17**). Scale 1:2.
- Figure 6.2. Roman lamps: Group II (**RL18–RL20**), Group III (**RL21–RL29**), and Group IV (**RL31–RL37**). Scale 1:2.
- Figure 6.3. Roman lamps: Group IV (**RL38–RL43**), Group V (**RL46–RL59**), and Group VI (**RL61–RL63**). Scale 1:2.
- Figure 6.4. Roman lamps: Group VI (**RL64–RL68**), Group VII (**RL69**), and Group VIII (**RL70–RL80**). Scale 1:2.
- Figure 6.5. Roman lamps: Group VIII (**RL81–RL93, RL95–RL98, RL100**). Scale 1:2.

- Figure 6.6. Roman lamps: Group VIII (**RL101–RL104, RL106**), Group X (**RL109–RL120**), and lamp **RL124**, upper and lower parts. Scale 1:2.
- Figure 7.1. Mesolithic stone tools.
- Figure 7.2. Mesolithic stone tools.
- Figure 7.3. Mesolithic (**S26–S28**) and Neolithic (**S31, S32, S35–S41, S44**) stone tools.
- Figure 7.4. Neolithic stone tools (**S45–S47, S49, S52**) and Mesolithic stone objects (**S59, S60**).
- Figure 7.5. Mesolithic (**S61–S63, S66, S68, S69**) and Neolithic (**S64, S65, S67, S70**) stone objects. Mesolithic unfired clay with pointille decoration (**SF1–SF3, SF5**).
- Figure 8.1. Mesolithic siliceous stone artifacts.
- Figure 8.2. Mesolithic siliceous stone artifacts.
- Figure 8.3. Mesolithic siliceous stone artifacts.
- Figure 8.4. Mesolithic obsidian artifacts (**L39–L44, L46**). Early/Middle Neolithic siliceous stone artifacts (**L51–L53**) and obsidian artifacts (**L54–L57**).
- Figure 8.5. Early/Middle Neolithic obsidian artifacts.
- Figure 8.6. Early/Middle Neolithic obsidian artifacts (**L70–L79**). Late Neolithic siliceous stone artifacts (**L81–L83**).
- Figure 8.7. Late Neolithic siliceous stone artifacts (**L84–L90, L92**) and obsidian artifacts (**L96–L98**).
- Figure 8.8. Late Neolithic obsidian artifacts.
- Figure 8.9. Late Neolithic obsidian artifacts.
- Figure 8.10. Late Neolithic obsidian artifacts.
- Figure 8.11. Late Neolithic obsidian artifacts.
- Figure 9.1. Map of the Northern Sporades indicating sites located in the survey.
- Figure 9.2. Map of Gramiza Island.
- Figure 9.3. Map of Peristera Island.
- Figure 9.4A. Map of Pappous and Koumbi Islands.
- Figure 9.4B. Neolithic pottery and obsidian artifacts from Pappous Island.
- Figure 9.5. Map of the Skantzoura group of islands.
- Figure 9.6A. Map of Kyra-Panagia (Pelagonisi).
- Figure 9.6B. Map of the Tragorema area on Kyra-Panagia (Pelagonisi).
- Figure 9.7. Map of the Pigadi area on Kyra-Panagia (Pelagonisi).
- Figure 9.8A. Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery and obsidian artifacts from Psathoura Island.
- Figure 9.8B. Map of Youra Island.

- Figure 10.1A. Map of Pappous Island.
- Figure 10.1B. Ground plan of structures on Psathonisi Islet.
- Figure 10.2A. Kyra-Panagia (Pelagonisi) and Youra on a map of the 16th century A.D. (after Bordone 1534).
- Figure 10.2B. Ground plan of shepherds' structures on Alonnessos.
-
- Figure 12.1. Ground plan of the Mesolithic site of Maroulas on Kythnos.
- Figure 12.2. Mesolithic sites in Greece.
- Figure 12.3. Map of Mesolithic Europe.
- Figure 12.4. The Aegean during the Glacial Maximum.
- Figure 12.5. The sea level in the Mesolithic Sporades.
- Figure 12.6. The sea level of the Aegean in 9000 and 4000 B.C. (after Lambeck 1996).
- Figure 12.7. Sea currents in the northern Aegean in the summer and winter (after Papageorgiou 1997).
- Figure 12.8. Sailing routes in the Aegean in the Early Holocene.
- Figure 12.9. Possible Mesolithic sea routes in the central and southern Aegean.
- Figure 12.10. Naval routes during the Neolithic period.
- Figure 12.11. The Aegean, Anatolia, and the Near East during the Early Holocene.
- Figure 12.12. Distribution of *Triticum boeoticum* in Asia Minor and the Near East.



List of Plates

- Plate 1.1A. The west side of Youra, view from the south. The entrance of a littoral cave is visible on the coast.
- Plate 1.1B. The interior of the island.
- Plate 1.2A. The church of Panagia on Youra.
- Plate 1.2B. Cistern in the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Plate 1.3A. Stalactite decor in the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Plate 1.3B. Mesolithic excavation levels in Trench CEast. View from top of South Balk.
-
- Plate 2.1. EN/MN coarse ware handle (24), sherd with relief decoration (31), sherd with pontille decoration (32), sherds with impressed decoration (37–40), and sherd with incised decoration (42). MN monochrome sherds with traces of burnishing tool marks (83, 86, 96, 97, 104, 120, 121, 124), sherd with plain plastic decoration (184), and White-on-Red painted sherds (194).
- Plate 2.2. LN Ib ladles (292, 294), handles (400, 412, 442, 444, 448), sherd decorated with a row of lugs (483), base with incised decoration (601), sherd with relief rope-motif decoration (641.1), vase decorated with incised plastic bands (649), sherds with plain plastic decoration (675, 679), sherds with incised decoration (700–702), and sherd with grooved decoration (718).

- Plate 3.1A. Open bowl (747) with canvas band, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.1B. Calyx-shaped bowl (748) with parallel lines, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.2. Neck/rim motifs. 1: 744; 2: 752; 3: 741; 4: 732; 5: 733; 6: 740.
- Plate 3.3. Vase (733). Top: detail of shoulder and body canvas. Bottom: reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.4. Vase (731) with shoulder canvas, concentric circles, and plant motif. Top: drawing of both sides of vase. Middle left: reconstructed pot. Middle right: detail of rim motif and shoulder canvas. Bottom left: detail of Π -meander on shoulder canvas. Bottom right: reconstruction of design on shoulder canvas.
- Plate 3.5. Vase (732) with shoulder canvas, concentric circles, and parallel and stepped lines. Top: drawing. Bottom left: detail of wavy meander on shoulder canvas. Bottom right: reconstruction on design on shoulder canvas.
- Plate 3.6A. Vase (733) with shoulder and body canvas, and concentric circles on body.
- Plate 3.6B. Vase (738) with shoulder canvas and concentric circles on body.
- Plate 3.6C. Vase (739) with shoulder canvas and concentric circles on body.
- Plate 3.7. Vase (736) with shoulder canvas and concentric circles on body. Top: drawing. Middle: reconstruction of design on shoulder canvas. Bottom left and right: detail of shoulder canvas.
- Plate 3.8. Vase (737) with shoulder canvas, concentric circles, and parallel lines. Top: drawing. Middle: detail of shoulder canvas. Bottom: reconstruction of design on shoulder canvas.
- Plate 3.9A. Vase (740) with shoulder canvas, detail and reconstruction of design on shoulder canvas and rim.
- Plate 3.9B. Vase (753) with shoulder and body canvas, detail and rendering.
- Plate 3.9C. Vase (733) with body canvas, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.10. Vase (734) with body canvas and concentric circles. Top: drawing. Bottom: detail of body canvas and concentric circles.
- Plate 3.11. Vase (735) with body canvas and concentric circles. Top: drawing. Bottom left: detail of body canvas. Bottom right: reconstruction of design of body canvas.
- Plate 3.12A. Vase (741) with concentric circles, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.12B. Vase (757) with group of concentric circles around lug.
- Plate 3.12C. Vase (758) with net pattern of large lozenges, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.13A. Vase (759) with concentric squares, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.13B. Vase (760) with cross-hatched lozenges, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.13C. Vase (761) with cross-hatched lozenges, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.14A. Vase (743) with Π -meander bands, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.14B. Vase (730) with lozenges and attached triangles, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.14C. Vases (762–764) with zigzag pattern.

- Plate 3.15A. Vase (**742**) with horizontal, vertical, and oblique groups of parallel lines, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.15B. Vases (**765, 766**) with parallel lines.
- Plate 3.15C. Early painted ware, vase (**767**) with large solid triangles, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.16A. Early painted ware, vase (**768**) with large solid triangles, detail and reconstruction of design.
- Plate 3.16B. Examples of carelessness by a Youra painter (**732, 733, 741, 769**).
- Plate 4.1. Pattern burnished ware (**784, 786, 787.1, 788.1, 789–791**) and matt-painted ware (**797–800**).
- Plate 5.1. Inscription on the base of a 5th-century B.C. kylix (**824**).
- Plate 6.1. Roman lamps: Group I (**RL1–RL4**).
- Plate 6.2. Roman lamps: uncataloged examples of the vine rim pattern of Group I.
- Plate 6.3. Roman lamps: Group II (**RL5–RL8**).
- Plate 6.4. Roman lamps: Group II (**RL9–RL11**) and Group III (**RL21**).
- Plate 6.5. Roman lamps: Group IV (**RL30**) and Group V (**RL44, RL45**).
- Plate 6.6. Roman lamps: Group VI (**RL60**), Group VIII (**RL94, RL99**), and Group IX (**RL107**).
- Plate 6.7. Roman lamps: uncataloged sherds of Group VI in the tradition of Alpha Globule Lamps.
- Plate 6.8. Roman lamps: Group IX (**RL108**), Group X (**RL109**); lamps **RL121** and **RL122**.
- Plate 6.9. Roman lamp **RL123**. Thymiaterion **RL125**.
- Plate 7.1. Mesolithic grinder (**S8**), shaft straighteners (**S59, S60**), stone pendants (**S63, S66, S68**); Late Neolithic marble figurine (**S70**); Neolithic spindle whorls (**SF6–SF8**); Late Neolithic sherd with incised symbols (**829**).
- Plate 8.1A. Late Neolithic obsidian and flint artifacts.
- Plate 8.1B. Late Neolithic flint blades.
- Plate 8.2A. Obsidian crescents and tools.
- Plate 8.2B. Late Neolithic obsidian blades and tools.
- Plate 9.1A. Gramiza Island.
- Plate 9.1B. Flint artifacts from Gramiza.
- Plate 9.2A. The island of Pappous from the south.
- Plate 9.2B. Post-Byzantine church on Pappous Island.

- Plate 9.3A. The western seashore of Piperi Island.
- Plate 9.3B. The islet of Sfika in Kyra-Panagia.
- Plate 9.4A. View of Psathoura Island.
- Plate 9.4B. The northern coast of Psathoura.
- Plate 9.5. Small cave near the south coast of Youra.
-
- Plate 10.1A. The area around the old monastery on Youra.
- Plate 10.1B. Olive trees on Youra.
- Plate 10.2A. Forest in the interior of Youra.
- Plate 10.2B. Low vegetation around the lighthouse on Psathoura.
-
- Plate 11.1A. The Mesolithic cranial vault from the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Plate 11.1B. Endocranium. Because of the advanced age at death, an intense development of the “sagittal channel” is observed.
-
- Plate 12.1A. Mesolithic fishhooks from Youra.
- Plate 12.1B. Mesolithic fishhooks from Youra.
- Plate 12.1C. Bipointed Mesolithic hooks from Youra.
- Plate 12.2A. Mesolithic fish vertebrae from the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Plate 12.2B. Pavement of a Mesolithic construction at Maroulas on Kythnos.
- Plate 12.3A. Part of a Mesolithic skull from the Cave of the Cyclops.
- Plate 12.3B. A Mesolithic burial at Maroulas on Kythnos.



Preface

On the deserted island of Youra, the Cave of the Cyclops has always been well known among the inhabitants of the Northern Sporades, particularly sailors and fishermen who visited the cave during their short journeys to the Deserted Islands. The locals all spoke in admiration of its impressive decor and of the fact that they found ancient lamps inside, which they used to take as souvenirs. Being local myself—as the neighboring island of Skopelos, the largest one of the group, is my father's birthplace—I visited the site at a young age to discover lamps, some of which carried human representations, scattered at many points inside the cave.

It would be a fair number of decades later when my assignment in the Ephorate of Speleology gave me the opportunity to visit the cave on the part of the service. Certainly such a significant site would have been inhabited also in earlier times, possibly in the Neolithic Age, because Neolithic habitation had been located on the neighboring island of Kyra-Panagia. A surveying expedition in May 1992 yielded a large number of Neolithic sherds at various points, and already by July of the same year the excavation of the cave had been initiated. The research in the cave lasted five years, until 1996.

In fact, this project was a very difficult task due to the great distance of the island from any populated areas, the lack of mooring, supply, and communication possibilities, and the difficulties of calling at any ports in the sea around the Deserted Islands, which is exposed to northerly winds for the majority of the year. Moreover, there was the problem of transporting the enormous volume of equipment to the camp, which lay at a great distance from the coast on a plateau not far

from the cave. I wonder if another overland excavation of such difficulties has ever before been conducted in Greece.

On the other hand, staying and working in such an exquisite space—ecologically sensitive and intact from lack of human intervention—was a challenge and a unique experience for the team. It was for these reasons that ecologists, experienced climbers, speleologists, and divers would offer to assist as volunteers during all the excavation seasons.

During the first season, apart from Hellenistic and Roman pottery, the excavation yielded Neolithic finds at two points inside the cave, while in the last days of our research, Mesolithic finds occurred. Over the years to follow, trenches yielded thick strata of Mesolithic habitation, and thus the island of Youra unexpectedly took a place of special cultural significance on the Aegean map. A series of ¹⁴C datings defined the succession of phases between the beginning and the end of the Mesolithic Age. The continuity of habitation from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic increased the importance of the site. Parallel to excavation, the entire group of the Deserted Islands was surveyed, and the collected material affirms the habitation of the islands since the Middle Paleolithic. Underwater investigations that also took place in the area of Youra located ancient coastlines and caves at various depths, which possibly were in use in the Paleolithic and Mesolithic. From the beginning of research, we aimed for scientific cooperation through the study of the material by specialists.



List of Abbreviations

A	Trench A (originally Trench Alpha)	dims.	dimensions
B	Trench B (originally Trench Beta)	dist.	disturbed
Byz.	Byzantine	E	Trench E (originally Trench Zeta)
C	Trench C (originally Trench Gamma)	EH	Early Helladic
ca.	approximately	EN	Early Neolithic
cat. no.	catalog number	F	Trench F
CEast	Eastern division of Trench C	FM	Final Mesolithic
cm	centimeter	gl.	glabella
cont.	continued	h.	height
corresp.	corresponding	in.	inion
CWest	Western division of Trench C	L	Lithic artifact catalog number
D	Trench D, extension of Trench A (originally Trench Delta)	L.	length
DEM	sample from Laboratory of Archaeometry (Institute of Materials Science, NCSR “Demokritos”) in Athens.	<i>LIMC</i>	<i>Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae</i> (Zurich and Munich 1974–)
diam.	diameter	LM	Lower Mesolithic
dim.	dimension	LN	Late Neolithic

LSJ	H.G. Liddell, R. Scott, and H. Stuart Jones, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> , 9th ed. (Oxford 1940)	pers. comm.	personal communication
m	meter	PPN	Pre-Pottery Neolithic
mm	millimeter	PPNA	Pre-Pottery Neolithic A
max.	maximum	PPNB	Pre-Pottery Neolithic B
max. dim.	maximum dimension	PPNC	Pre-Pottery Neolithic C
Mes.	Mesolithic	pres.	preserved
met.	metopion	RL	Roman lamp catalog number
MH	Middle Helladic	Rom.	Roman
MN	Middle Neolithic	S	Stone artifact catalog number
MNI	minimum number of individuals	S	south
N	north	SE	southeast
NE	northeast	SF	Small Find catalog number
no.	number	SS	siliceous stone
NW	northwest	SW	southwest
O	obsidian	th.	thickness
op.	opisthocranium	UM	Upper Mesolithic
		W	west
		w.	width